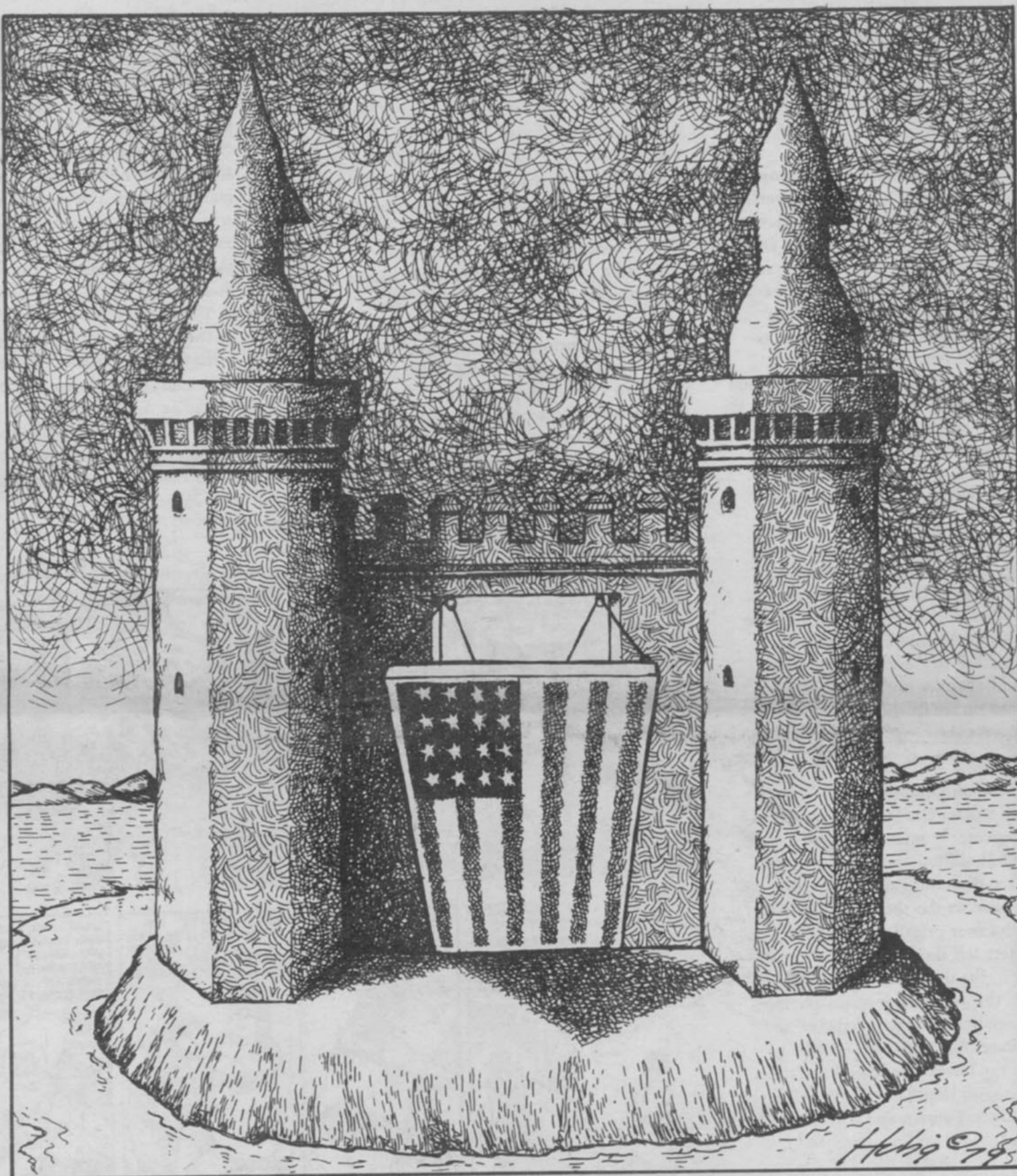


The DC Gazette

AN ALTERNATIVE JOURNAL



On the ward

Guide to activist organizations

Outlying Precincts: Iran, Jerry Brown

Weather Report

THE OPERATORS of the crippled Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant say they are seeking federal money to help pay for the cost of cleaning up the damaged reactor. Herman Dieckamp, president of the General Public Utilities Corporation, says that the aid should not be viewed as a 'bail-out.' Says Dieckamp, "This is an important opportunity to add to the nation's nuclear experience."

THE US ARMY is reported to have exposed eight servicemen in the Utah desert to powerful mind-altering chemical weapons in a top-secret series of experiments code-named 'Project Dork.' The experiments, carried out 15 years ago, involved exposing the unidentified men to heavy concentrations of the chemical BZ. This is a hallucinogenic compound that is described as being ten times more powerful than LSD. It reportedly produces an 80-hour trip. Documents obtained by American Citizens for Honesty in Government reveal that some of the hallucinating men were exposed to the drug, then assigned to sentry duty. They were totally disoriented and incapable of carrying out their tasks. Heber Jentsch, a researcher with AHG, says the army "couldn't explain why they used the word 'Dork.' My guess is that it was their way of saying that it's alright to stick it to your fellow citizens." Other documents released by the group reveal that the US and Canadian navies once worked together to develop a botulism bomb. The botulism toxin under study was so powerful that one ounce of the stuff could kill 120 million people.

LAST FALL'S highly-publicized MUSE concerts at Madison Square Garden to aid the anti-nuclear effort reported, raised less than a third of the \$750,000-\$1 million organizers had anticipated. MUSE co-director Pamal Lippe reports that the chief reason for the shortfall is that ticket sales of both lower priced and so-called big-roller \$500 tickets fell short of their expected sales. In addition, the unexpected problems of union overtime, the addition of more women and minority rock performers to balance the show and the failure of MUSE merchandise to sell well caused the lower revenues. The organization, however, still hopes to raise considerable funds with its concert album and a projected film of the show.

A GROWING conservation trend among electricity consumers is catching the nation's electric utilities off guard, the Environmental Action Foundation reports. EAF says industry figures show that the nation's demand for new electrical power came to a virtual halt in 1979, dealing a severe blow to plans for rapid construction of new power plants. EAF charged industry officials with 'deliberately misleading the press and the public' as to the need for more power plants, and warned that unless utilities cut back construction consumers will be forced to pay substantially higher electric bills.

NEWLY RELEASED government documents reveal that during the 1950s high level members of the CIA believed in the existence of UFOs. A series of internal CIA memos — just released

under the Freedom of Information Act — indicated that during the fifties, the Agency's assistant director of scientific intelligence, H. Marshall Chadwell, was disturbed about flying saucer reports coming in from around the world.

In on memo written to then CIA director Allen Dulles, Chadwell wrote: 'Sightings of unexplained objects at great altitudes and traveling at high speeds in the vicinity of major US defense installations are of such a nature that they are not attributable to natural phenomena or known types of aerial vehicles... There is something going on that must have immediate attention.'

In another 1952 internal report, Chadwell suggested that 'United States psychological warfare planners' should study UFO sighting reports. He wrote that flying saucer incidents could be used by either the US or the Soviet "for touching off of mass hysteria and panic."

Still other CIA memos reveal that the agency adopted a policy of denying that there was any CIA interest in the subject of UFOs.

Two educational organizations—the National Council of Teachers of English and the American Library Association — report that the censorship of books in American schools reached record levels during 1979. The Library Association says it received at least 300 reports of book-banning or censorship during the past school year.

Folger Apartments

ON — THE — PARK

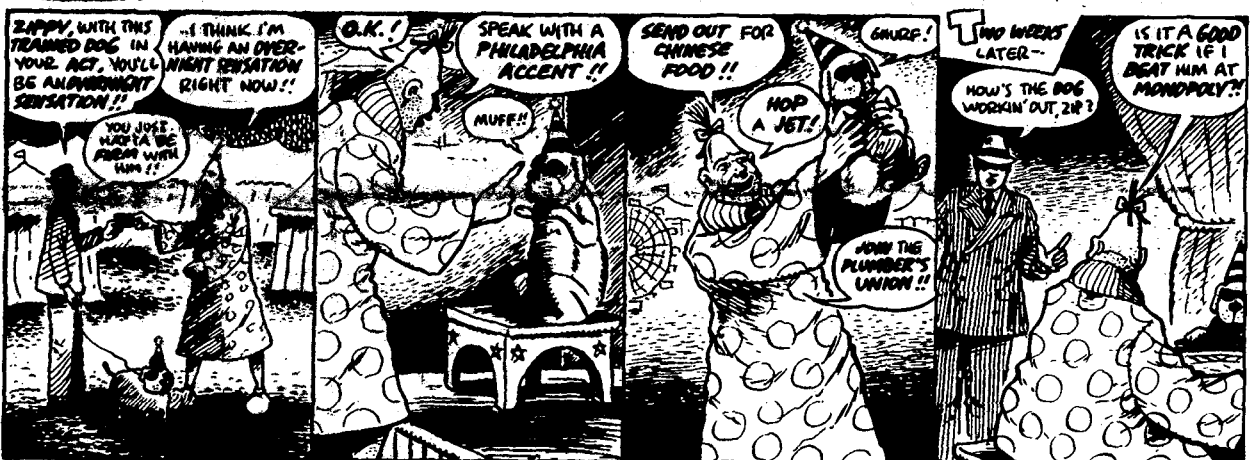
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In Anaheim, California, for example, the school board under pressure from parents has approved a list of books off the city's schools. Among those excluded from the list are said to be most of the works of William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and Mark Twain.

In the town of Warsaw, Indiana, books such as the 'Bell Jar' and 'Growing Up Female in America' were recently removed from school shelves. Citizens who were opposed to those books had burned copies of them in the school parking lot, and four teachers opposed to the book removals were fired.

The Library Association reports that one of the most popular targets of book censors is 'Catcher in the Rye.' In Middleville, Mich., for example, the book was banned after parents there complained that it "violated the word of God." According to Library Association officials, more books were banned in 1979 than "at any other time in at least the last 25 years."

ZIPPY



LESSONS IN SEXUALITY DO NOT EASILY PENETRATE ZIPPY'S TAPERED CRANION—



Action Notes

THE CAMPAIGN for Political Rights has assembled an information packet on the proposed FBI Charter. Send \$3 to CPR, 201 Mass Ave. NW, DC 20002.

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Md.) Office of Consumer Affairs has produced a booklet which shows consumers how to use supermarket codes to determine when food products were processed and what they contain. To get a copy of 'Crack the Code' send 25 cents plus a self-addressed large business envelope with 20¢ on it to the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Affairs, 611 Rockville Pike, Room 201, Rockville, Md. 20852.

ANOTHER ANTI-NUKE MARCH on Washington is being planned for next April 26., sponsored by the Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World. Info: Diane Linsky, 6025 Majors Lane (4), Columbia, Md. 21045.

NO NUKES: Everyone's Guide to Nuclear Power. Power Line calls this book 'fascinating and readable.' \$8 from the South End Press, Box 68, Astor Station, Boston, Mass. 02123.

'SHOULD ENERGY COST AN ARM & A LEG?': 25-minute slide show designed for

energy activists working with labor groups. \$25 rental, \$75 purchase from Labor Education and Research, Cindia Cameron, 853 Broadway, Room 2007, NYC NY 10003.

AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE: If you want to find out whether your model car has ever been recalled, dial 800-424-9393 and give the operator your auto's make, model and year. A short tape will be played to you a few seconds later, giving you complete updated information on any known defects in your car. Sponsored by the Department of Transportation.

TULI KUPFERBERG is back again with—this time—a collation of quotes about God. They're the sort of thing you won't find in Bartlett's like this 1960s graffiti: "God is alive—he just doesn't want to get involved." 'O God!' costs 25 cents plus an unknown amount of postage from Vanity Press, 160 6th Ave., NYC NY 10013.

SANE has produced a fact sheet on nuclear wastes. SANE, 514 C NE, DC 20002.

THE NATIONAL Task Force on Prostitution has just published its first newsletter edition. Info: NTFP News, PO Box 26354, San Francisco, CA 94126.

IN A LEGISLATIVE FIRST, comprehensive controls which both govern police intelligence activities and also protect First Amendment rights have been enacted by the Seattle, Wash.

city council. The October 1979 issue of First Principles discusses the legislation and how it was passed. \$1 from Center for National Security Studies, 122 Maryland Ave. NE, DC 20002.

'THE INTELLIGENCE NETWORK' is a 35 minute film produced by the Campaign for Political Rights. Describes political surveillance at home and abroad. Write CPR, 201 Mass. Ave. NE DC 20002

AMERICAN URBAN GUIDE NOTES is published quarterly and contains reviews of urban guides from all over. Subscription is \$9; single copy \$2.50. Write American Urban Guides, Box 186, DC 20044.

SOLAR TIMES is a new solar energy magazine covering North America and Europe. Sample copy is \$1.50 from 901 Bridgeport Ave., Shelton, Conn. 06484.

THE ANIMAL TOWN GAME CO. (PO Box 2002, Santa Barbara, CA 93120) offers games with a social bent like "Save the Whales" and "Back to the Farm." Catalog.

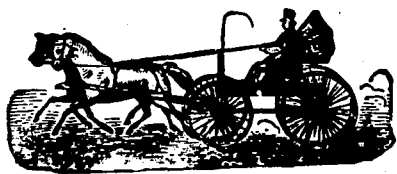
THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on Anarchism will be held Feb. 18-24 at Lewis & Clark College in Oregon. Contact Anarchism Comm., LCBox 134, Lewis & Clark, Portland, Ore. 97219.

THE CHILDRENS RIGHTS HANDBOOK is available for \$3.95 from Youth Liberation,

TELEPHONE: 232-5894

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FOR A LIST OF PUBLICATIONS on adult learning and community education write Free University Network, 1221 Thurston, Manhattan, Kansas, 66502.

THE ALLIANCE FOR THE Liberation of Mental Patients is an educational-political-advocacy organization. Info: 112 S. 16th St. (1305), Philadelphia Pa. 19102.

THE SCHOOL OF LIVING held a weekend last fall at which decentralists got together and discussed how society and the economy and government could be restored to a human scale. They produced the outline of a "Decentralist Manifesto for the Eighties" and are planning a major conference this spring. Info: John McLaughry, Institute for Liberty and Community, Concord, Vermont 05824.

SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR Solar Activities: Getting money from foundations, local and federal government. \$4.50 from Center for Renewable Resources, 1001 Conn. Ave. NW, fifth floor, DC 20036.

THE ENERGY CONSUMER (Aug/Sep 1979) lists government sources of information,

regional Department of Energy offices, non-governmental networks, publications and films and state energy offices. Free from the Office of Consumer Affairs, Room 8E018, DC 20585.

A COALITION is planning hearings on the plight of radiation victims, to be held in Washington April 11-14. There will be testimony by radiation victims and others, workshops and strategy sessions, lobbying and public demonstrations. The hearings are being sponsored by, among others, Clergy and Laity Concerned, the Environmental Policy Center, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, SANE and the National Association of Atomic Veterans. Info: National Citizens Hearings on Radiation Victims, 317 Penna. Ave. SE, DC 20003 (202-543-0222).

A NEW CAMPAIGN has been launched to secure the constitutional rights of conscientious objectors to the payment of taxes for military purposes. The chief vehicle of the campaign is the Conscience and Military Tax Resolution. Each signatory of the resolution promises "to prepare myself to withhold the military portion of my federal income tax by the time I am officially notified by the Conscience & Military Tax Campaign that there

are 100,000 signed Conscience & Military Tax Resolutions on file." Signatories will be told of methods of military tax resistance, including token, low-risk methods which they can use now if they are not yet ready to withhold the entire military portion. In addition, the campaign maintains an escrow account into which conscientious objectors can pay their refused military taxes. Upon enactment of the World Peace Tax Fund bill (which would provide a legislative solution to the tax dilemma of conscientious objectors), this money would be turned over to the IRS in fulfillment of past tax obligations of despositors. Income from the escrow account will be used for campaign promotion. Info: Washington War Tax Resistance, 3417 Carlin Springs Rd, (202), Falls Church, Va. 22041 or Conscience & Military Tax Campaign, 44 Bellhaven Rd., Bellport, NY 11713.

THE CASE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER: A collection of articles written under the auspices of the Environmental Action Foundation and published by Harper & Row. \$2.50 at bookstores.

THE FIFTH WORLD CONGRESS for Rural Sociology will be held in Mexico City on August 7-12. Topics include the social consequence of the Green Revolution, eco-development and prospects for collective agriculture. Info: Dr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, El Colegio de Mexico, Apdo. 20-671, DF 20, Mex.

It won't play in Delhi

ROBERT ALPERIN

A CORPORATE sponsor used it in an image building 'Movies to Remember' series. The quickie TV previews in the Washington dailies found it "a fun movie" or a "venerable" story that "still plays excitingly."

Its Hollywood good-guy protagonists lead fun-loving, rough-and-tumble lives soldiering for a colonial power. Their confidence and fistic prowess shows when one is attacked by several 'natives.' Disdaining any weapons but fists, he holds them off until his buddies come.

The bad guys are rebellious, dark skinned locals whose nationalism is represented by a strangler religious cult. A star assures us that they are the "most fiendish band of killers."

But all the film's dark skinned people are not bad. Some serve in the colonial army. The 'native' hero aspires to be accepted by the army of occupation. He is — posthumously, having died warning the colonial commander of an impending nationalist ambush.

'Gunga Din' is adventure as promised, but is it "fun" for all? To enjoy it, its values have to be accepted, or at least not be intrusively repugnant. It assumes the legitimacy of British domination and Indian subordination. It shows the "superiority" of whites over non-whites. When notice is given about sex, violence and certain words, are reviewers negligent in not warning potential viewers about a film's values?

'Gunga Din' is catalogued in most minds under "adventure" not "message." Though not in a "Films of Persuasion" series, it is a

gold medal winner of that genre. Its messages blend artfully into its assumptions. While British India is gone, its values still affect British and American perceptions of the former colonies. Much reporting of the Rhodesian war emphasized white deaths, white suffering and white views reported from Salisbury. (A recent study of several major US papers by then Howard University graduate student Beverly Hawk found reliance on predominantly white sources. Asked to comment on her results, most editors and reporters defended the practice. One told her the black view was obtained from whites unfriendly to Ian Smith.

But, you might say, don't we suspend judgement to enter the artist's world? Consider this plot:

The heroes come on with beer and nice music. They romp thorough Europe (always in beautiful locales) seeking boxcars which arrogant generals try to hide — high-spirited rivalry. The stars's victory, and the shipping of people in the cars seems proper, a logical outcome of the plot's assumptions.

Perhaps a film should be made from Eichmann's viewpoint. Imagine the pressures to win travel priorities over troops and supplies. Imagine the embarrassment if boxcar space and Jews don't match.

Would not such films be socially unacceptable? No amount of art would legitimize them.

Facing 'Gunga Din's' assumptions need be no exercise in self-flagellation or a prod to liberal guilt. It can measure increased awareness. Seeing the film after many years, one perceptive friend noted the good guys and the bad guys seemed reversed. the film's values no longer lurked silently undetected in the plot's assumptions.

The film reminds us that colonial powers

(and their updated economic successors) cultivated support among local populations. Above all, facing 'Gunga Din's' values helps sensitize us to how a story acceptable to many of us offends much of the world. It won't play in Delhi.

An organization of northern California astronomers is upset with the movie *The Black Hole*, suggesting that -- from a scientific point of view the Walt Disney film is really Mickey Mouse.

The Astronomical Society of the Pacific claims that the science fiction flick is loaded with scientific errors. As an example, the movie shows the black hole surrounded by a bright, swirling disc. According to Andrew Fraknoi of the society, "There's no neighbor star. The material appears to be coming from nowhere, so it's totally ridiculous."

Fraknoi complains that the movie also shows a meteor burning up in outer space -- even though there's no oxygen or atmosphere to cause or support the burning.

Fraknoi also criticizes the film because it fails to show time slow down as a space crew approaches the black hole. To set the record straight, the astronomical society has installed a special pre-recorded hotline that explains what black holes really are. The number is 415-661-0500.

Paul Krassner Predicts!

●It will be learned that the US State Department officials who followed intelligence warnings about Jonestown by ignoring them are the very same officials who followed intelligence warnings about Iran by ignoring them. The government will react to this revelation by immediately establishing a new federal commission, the Coincidence Control Center.

●Eldridge Cleaver will custom-tailor a pair of designer jeans for Reverend Sun Myung Moon.

●A new cult will emerge, consisting of young people whose theology has been derived entirely from New Age teabag boxes.

●The Coca Cola Company will attempt legal action to prevent anyone from ever again referring to cocaine as coke.

●There will be a new candy sensation which not only doesn't melt in your mouth, but also breaks your teeth.

●A national organization of bisexual activists will declare odd-even days for their membership.

●Abbie Hoffman will turn out to be one of the American hostages. Hamilton Jordan will personally plead for his release.

●Baloney sandwiches on white bread with mustard will make a big comeback in jaded Hollywood circles.

●The Shah will leave Panama, he will go to Egypt, the PLO will combine with Israeli intelligence, the Pyramids will be blown up, World War III will start in the mid-east and nearly all life on the planet will be destroyed but a cure will be discovered for holiday depression.



●The most popular new program of the year will be a series called Outtakes, consisting entirely of unused material from other shows. However, an unscrupulous ad agency will secretly pay performers to make mistakes, and there will be a tremendous scandal, which itself will be turned into a mini-series.

●The Susan B. Anthony coin will no longer be confused with the quarter as soon as the dollar itself becomes worth 25 cents.

●The junk food industry will join the struggle for the legalization of marijuana.

●There will be a lot of panel discussions about whether George Orwell's 1984 was a warning or a blueprint.

●There will be a world-wide religious war between those who believe we are all one and those who don't.

●Evalyn Wood will initiate a speed-reading course for the hard-of-hearing. They will then save time by watching their video cassettes at fast forward speed.

●Werner Erhard will solve the world hunger crisis with a distribution system for chocolate-covered cockroaches.

●Sammy Davis, Sandy Duncan, Peter Falk and Wolfman Jack will all use their glass eyes in a celebrity marbles tournament.

●Douglas Schmidt will serve as attorney for the Shah in an international court of justice; the defense will be he ate too much halvah.

●And finally, Dr. John Lilly will communicate with dolphins by using computers. The sea mammals will explain that brain size has nothing to do with intelligence and that tuna fish are really smarter.

Condo Blues

ERIC GREEN

ALL seemed right with the world when I finally moved into my spanking new \$92,000 condominium high-rise apartment in the fast side of town.

Moving into a condo would show me how the better half lived. I could swim indoors in the heart-shaped pool located next door to the seventh floor backgammon parlor.

For dinner, I could ride the elevator to the revolving roof-top restaurant offering a choice between French, Polynesian and Italian cuisines. As part of the privilege for living in this condo, I was invited into the private jockey club for apres-dinner cocktails with the horsy set.

I leaned back on my recliner in the living

room to savor my first night into the good life. Suddenly, a foreign substance ricocheted from my forehead. A large drip smacked me upside the head. More drips splish-splashed into a half-opened eye.

A clump of water was hanging to a crack in the ceiling. The clump collapsed into the eye, which by now was wide open. A new clump began to form.

I hadn't paid millions for my own living room bird-bath. I ran upstairs to complain to my neighbor about the leak in his floor. But he wasn't home. I ran downstairs to the lobby to notify the condominium's resident manager.

"Yes?" she sniffed.

"The person above me has a hole in his floor. Water is leaking into my apartment. I'm in 415. He's in 515."

"Are you filing a complaint, grievance, notice of appeal, or request for inquest?" she read coldly off a wall poster.

"What's the difference?"

"A complaint requires a formal hearing, an inquiry starts a grievance proceeding, a notice of appeal initiates an inquest, and a grievance involves holding a meeting of the condominium residents association. Which do you desire?"

"I don't care. Just fix the damn leak."

"Nothing can be done until you follow established procedure."

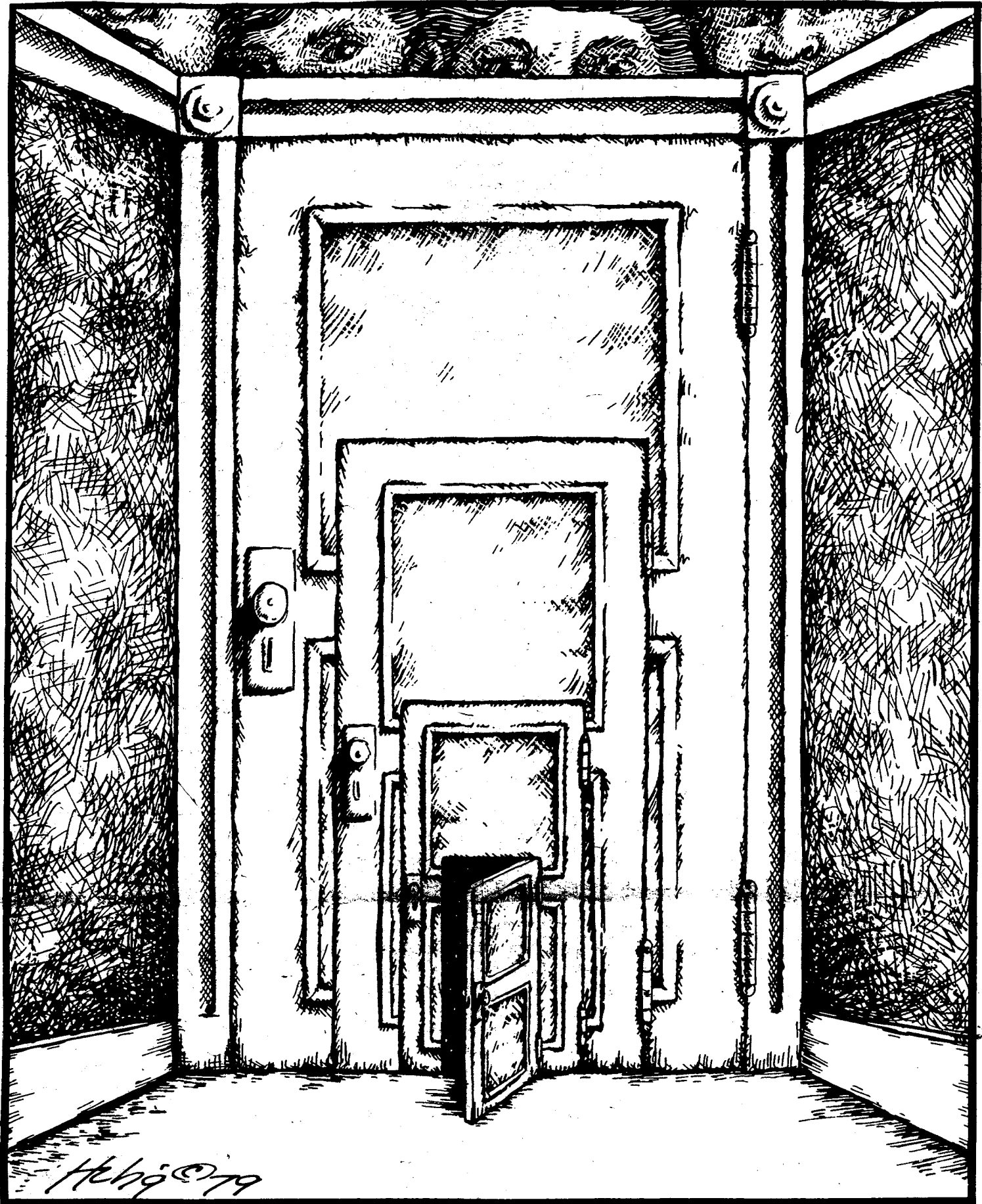
"Look, just give me the phone number for 515. I'll take care of this by myself."

"Young man, that's against the rules."

My neighbor's phone number was listed in the directory. His phone rang twice before one of those annoying tape recorded messages came on the line.

"HI THERE," the voice on the tape chirped. "WELL, LOOKS LIKE YOU CAUGHT ME OUT AGAIN. I'M NOT HOME NOW. TOO BAD. AT THE BEEP

(please turn to page 19)



On the Ward

MARIE GIBLIN

LOCKED in the hospital ward I see the jets and hear them swoosh on a September afternoon when the sun is getting a clean shot at the sky after a whole summer's smog. The heat and light press tight against the locked windows, making the ward airless. It is hard to breathe and I want to fly out into the sky's cool, blueness and big clouds.

Later J. tells me about the "freedom of the nuthouse --here you can say what you want and do as you delude. What else can they do to you after they've locked you up?

But this first afternoon I feel the limits of the windows and the locked elevator of the ward. All day my

good and my evil dispositions take turns tick-tocking back and forth, moment to moment. What is evil is manic, and what is good is calm. When calms possesses me, I raise my fist to a stream of jets and feel at one with what sounds like their long purr. I am willing them into Washington by way of virtue and reward.

It has been two months since I spent time in the short-stay psychiatric unit of one of our city's hospitals. Is it sensationalizing the experience to write about it? Beware the glamour of mental illness, one inmate warns me. It seems on late-night television talk shows people like Oscar

Levant have been known to brag about how many times they've whacked it out in America's nut homes.

The implication is that doing time in an asylum is evidence of an artistic quality or rebellious nature unwilling to conform to a social reality plenty of us agree is contrived. And it is tempting to wear my aberration as a badge rather than a taint. I notice my ego's effort to justify the experience, to call it a "journey," compliments of R.D. Laing. The easy way out is to conclude that it was both my ego's private heyday and a fall from social grace.

The ultimate lesson is mundane enough. Survival depends upon some

acceptance of the social consensus of what reality is. Yet in each of us I suspect a desire to forgo this vision in favor of our own-- the one we learn early in life to subdue within the perspective of the social whole. Loss of perspective is singular. I am truly close to the roots of myself, but I learn quickly the consequence. If there is any glamour in madness, it is the glamour of the outlaw.

To lose perspective is not to lose touch with the world -- at least not the objective forms and shapes of the world, not its times and places. It is like being a child again, a very young child who has not learned social protocol and whose strangeness is exclusiveness.

We patients are as unpredictable and irritating as children, and we are treated very much like them. My seeming reality, quite lucid and connected to me, is pummeled the first few days by the harsh voices and directives of the staff so that I shatter continuously in waves of shock as they bring me back from my own womb to that of our society's. I wonder what differences there might be in an Italian psych ward. No doubt the standards of resocialization would be different.

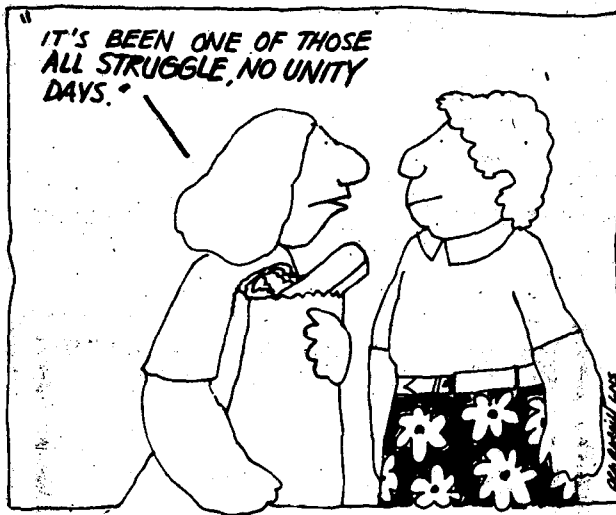
This is a hospital, there is the smell of urine and blood is tapped from my veins into tubes. Some of the patients wear pajamas all day. This is a zoo. We are beasts in the cage and outsiders are fearful as they sense the tiger or the ape in themselves. The staff, boldly entering the cage, are lion tamers shoving their heads into the mouths of the beasts.

IN THE SOLARIUM

We eat hospital food in plastic dishes, exchanging bits and pieces of each other like tidbits on a fork to nibble. We whittle and sculpt ourselves and the divorce we undertake from the world recedes because we talk and eat together. But only to a point. Here, more than any other place, I see that sociability is a pretension. People remain separate always, and, separate from their inner workings, I touch what I can. I like to look at their faces, soft as parchment and the features brilliant in what ideas surface on them. Looking at the face of someone's animation is like watching television.

That one has the face of bewilderment and a body stiff and shut. She is closed up as though whoever she is, she's gone away and boarded her body like an abandoned house. Her hair is a waterfall. Her voice is childish, a puppet's voice or a music box with vocal chords. Once she did cartwheels among piles of chairs. She saw me watching and laughed with the sheepishness of sanity.

That one is an old beauty. White waist-length hair and the bones in the face well-defined. She is brisk and forthright in the tone she uses to ask her questions of loss: losing her



way to her room, to her clothes, to her son, to her past. "What do you do when you remember a phone number but it has too many digits?" When I take her to her room, the beds are twisted and the paint on the walls is scratched off by the newest patient now removed to solitary. The genteel lady is near tears until she finds a cheese sandwich still in its wrapper where she had forgotten it under her pillow. This is a pleasant surprise.

That one has the scar of a knifing ear to ear. Strong and humorous and loved by a man who visits in elegant suits and brings with him the cool fresh air barred to us.

That one is a lecher who says he knows that I have never slept with a black man. He wants to be a young muslim god, but is still a reedy boy.

When I get out of here I want to drink champagne and smile.

A COMMUNITY MEETING

We sit as other people sit in large rooms full of folding chairs to attend meetings of the PTA, voter leagues or Lion Clubs. What brings us together is the staff's hope that we will develop a sense of community instead of staring inwardly and folding up into ourselves. We are coaxed to put aside our private visions, to recognize other people and our place among them. Old Lady E. shouts everyone down with non-sequiturs, but there are few voices to shout down, and fewer topics to distort. The kitchen, who messes it and who steals food, is an old issue, worn and comfortable. It is always trotted out. Some of us leave early, some of us never show, some of us do not know when the meeting is over. Few of us have public visions. A staff member complains about this. She has a despondent sigh. Does she know that we do better in private conversations, spontaneous and fog-bound?

SATURDAY NIGHT DISCO ON THE WARD

It is by way of ending our conversation that our mouths press against one another, dry and wide oval hoops. He explained more with his manner of protection than his painfully terse whisper not to abandon to the lure of the young men dancing in black lace shirts around us. I believe in the compassion of this old white-haired man to save me from what he used to be himself.

PRIVATE ENCOUNTERS

He is the brigand, tall and slight as a bow, shooting out the arrows of his observations. He is courtly in his leanness. He is teeming with poetry and travel and beauty. Here he does battle with heroin and maybe with easeful death? We talk about Poe, but no, he bites life. You can sense his teeth upon it.

A falling face into a plateful of food and a head full of pills, he confesses. But he has seen Hong Kong harbor hilly and green, and causes it to glitter before my eyes along with the gifts he recalls from other roaming friends. Packets of brass knobs, glass bulbs from Japanese fishing nets, solid mahogany claws from the legs of old tables. His woman practiced witchcraft until he found her two days ago on the floor of their apartment. A clumsy witch? Easeful death?

We want out but have to figure how we came here in the first place. Neither of us successful in love or money or jobs. Both of us wanderers into the minds of other people and tumbleweeding through the small and scrappy towns of America. Restless or maybe just moving targets, the better not to get zapped into the mainstream. Well, we agree that we wander too close to the edge, trying to push through limitations, most of them self-imposed. Transcendence is acrobatic and so we slip and fall trying to push a hole through "reality."

There is a poster on the wall written by a former patient, a lawyer for the FTC:

"I am an old man with many troubles--most of which never happened."

VISITORS

My sister's fiance brings me a rose as beautiful as she is. I am full of effort to capture the delicacy of the rose's petals and my sister's smile. Wearing her flowered and lace skirt, I try her smile on my own face and carry the rose like a sword of strength to keep the swelling hysteria down. Then I give it away to one of the young women on the staff because her face is caught in awkwardness and inadequacy. She needs a sword too.

Later my brother tells me how frightened he was, as though someone had dressed up to look like me, a masquerade, a totally unknown personality. Personality turmoil is not disease, it is change, I say. For him, it is a wound, the treasure is that I came back.

ADMISSION AND RETURN

The psyche ward's mission is to resocialize us, and I do so quickly to escape the inevitably punitive nature of the place. The professionals are as threatening as our own chaos because they wield total control over our bodies and our minds. We are at the mercy of their theories to leave our rooms or go for walks. Even fresh air is something to be earned on the basis of good behavior. Once we regain perspective, we know the staff better than they know us, since they spend no prolonged time outside the norm, while we remain alien and untrustworthy and must exaggerate soc-

ial sensibilities to obtain our release.

The ward is a haven, too; much as we hate imprisonment, we need a place to relearn the perspective that permits us to live with other people outside. Where are the boundaries between oneself and the world and where are the meeting places? This is where we start the journey in search for that balance, although the staff offers no sign of recognizing that there is always the tightrope between our essential selves and our resocialized ones. To integrate totally into the social norm is something we are unwilling to do, and something the staff apparently cannot do, since patients swear witnessing them pass back and forth across the line dividing what is sane and what is not. And what is that? A complex question, but in this short-stay unit the line seems to be social perspective.

Are we contagious then? Probably. Just as probably, perspective is something healthy to lose now and again. If we learn that we cannot remain in our own nether worlds, the staff inadvertently remind us that no one can maintain perspective continuously. It is not a natural state, and requires adherence, even allegiance.

At dawn I go to bed believing my lover will come for me in one of the jets crossing the sky or else my mentor will prevail in the vibration of the sirens. In delicate dim light, the white of the walls and the white of the sheets shine luminescent, making it easier to believe I also glow. As my body touches the bed, the other bed across the room begins to creak and the body within it to move restlessly. In my state of reveries and delusion I am intensified to know that I can irritate the sleep of an unknown person across the room, as though our discomfort is an atmosphere in which we both share and exchange small electric shocks or even just the prick of pins.

Withdrawal, says J., is like having ground glass in your stomach and someone just poured acid over it.

Psychology, says the misogynist, is still primitive. They put a "dwork" on you and spin you back out into the "Death Cult" of fast food and



liquor and pills. There is an unrelenting struggle--life and death--life against death-- and we have to go back out there and dance in its arms like everybody else.

The body in the bed remains dim until the rustling of the sheets and springs signals its climbing out. The darkened silhouette rises up and puts shoes on, opens a closet with a key, takes out a suitcase, and closes the door behind footsteps with a certain march in them, resolute steps of victory. Then it occurs to me that she can leave because I am taking her place. We are sentries exchanging the duty of a long watch, for this ward is surely an outpost on the world. A lonely, lonely feeling.

Later in the afternoon a visitor will bring me a Big Mac and fries because I want to taste the greasiness of the rat race. No matter the death cult, I want to rejoin.

Meanwhile, the body who has climbed out of bed gets not fatter than the locked elevator. She returns and we sleep without restlessness.

Chuck Stone

DON'T LOOK BACK, cautioned that ageless philosopher, Leroy Paige. "Something may be gaining on you."

The merits of Satchel's wisdom notwithstanding, newspaper people are peering over their shoulders furtively more frequently these days. Something is gaining on them.

Not just any solitary stalking something, but a swelling army of dangerous busybodies.

Their commander-in-chief is a Burgerlarized Supreme Court. Their battleground, the 1st Amendment. Their battle targets -- newsroom files, reporters' notes, unpopular ideas and private thoughts.

In the arrogance that assumes only journalists can judge the threat, we have focused solely on the enemy outside. Pogo suggested the search also look within. Warned the winsome little possum, "We have met the enemy and they is us."

For starters, "us" could include Michael J. O'Neil, the editor of the New York Daily News, America's second largest daily. O'Neil knuckled under to pressure by lowering the boom on one of his top columnists, Pete Hamill.

For the past three years, the conservative O'Neil has suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous brilliance from the liberal Hamill. As an ombudsman for blue-collar whites, low income blacks, emerging Hispanics and dispossessed peoples, this Irish prophet writes with a lyrical intensity that made the New York Daily News' editorial seem pallidly irrelevant. Man, how that must have pained O'Neil.

Hamill is a member of a small breed of columnists who unfrock phonies and fight to replace injustice for some with colorblind justice for all.

After the shah was admitted to the US, a collision between myth-debunking Hamill and eminent storyteller Henry Kissinger was as foreordained as a Jaworski-Carmichael pass.

Hamill lacerated the Kissinger-David Rockefeller connection to the shah's visa and left it in shreds.

Prior to those searing criticisms, O'Neil reportedly had planned to negotiate a one-year extension of Hamill's contract.

But first O'Neil had lunch with Kissinger. The two sit as members of the board of directors of the prestigious Council of Foreign Relations, a position which many editors consider a blatant conflict of interest for editor O'Neil.

Following that luncheon, Hamill says, O'Neil told him his columns were 'too far left' for the New York Daily News. But even O'Neil couldn't bring himself to completely savage the 1st Amendment. Reluctantly, he made Hamill an offer: one column a week, but on anything except politics.

The offer wasn't incredible. The gall was.

To deny one columnist the same range of comment enjoyed by other columnists on the same newspaper makes a travesty of free speech.

Hamill, of course, rejected O'Neil's narrow-minded offer.

But such intolerance was not surprising to a large cross-section of black employees at the New York Daily News. Exasperated with what they view as the newspaper's inflexible pattern of discrimination in employment and promotions, they formed a black caucus to negotiate with O'Neil.

Were they accusing the O'Neil administration of racism? "Oh, absolutely," replied caucus chairman Dave Hardy. "O'Neil doesn't believe in equal opportunity. He is an elitist with a plantation approach to minorities."

A few months ago, a black reporter, Clinton Cox, resigned in a teeth-gritting letter that detailed ten specific incidents of racial discrimi-

nation. When I asked O'Neil about the accuracy of the specific incidents, he talked in vague concentricities about the letter being "judgmental" and how "you fellows put out these stories." Mercy! Freedom of speech, how it do carry on.

But freedom of speech is also a perpetual balancing act. An editor must juggle internal policy against external pressure and try to resolve these occasionally conflicting interests. At all times, democracy is best served by giving those interests the maximum free play feasible in the paper's columns.

Certainly the largest newspaper in that splendid citadel of pluralism ought to be big and secure enough to tolerate at least one liberal columnist who is not homogenized into a conservative editor's party line.

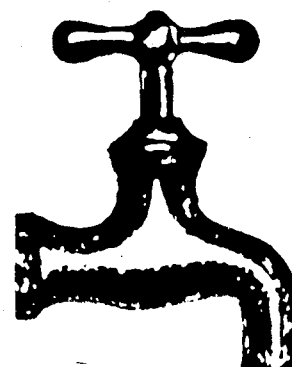
Moreover, as Justice William O. Douglas wrote in his class dissent in *Dennis vs. United States*: "Full and free discussion, even of ideas we hate, encourages the testing of our own prejudices nad preconceptions."

The Pete Hamills of this country, so tragically in short supply, have forced many a closed mind to test its preconceptions.

With the loss of his column from one of the nation's premier newspapers, the integrity of free speech has been abridged.

Let Michael J. O'Neil ask not what outside forces are weakening the 1st Amendment. Let him first look in the mirror.

Philadelphia Daily News



THE NATIONAL ACTION GUIDE

Alternative Organizations

Alternative Media

In this and succeeding issues we are going to attempt to resurrect our Gazette Guide to national alternative organizations. Although appearances suggest that there has been a steady decline in political activism over the past decade, our own experience tells us that there are still hundreds of groups doing interesting, progressive, alternative things and more people should hear about them. These listings are in the form of a first draft and we ask your assistance in making additions, deletions and corrections. Send any changes to the DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009

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NYC NY 10012

COMM FOR NATIONAL HEALTH
INSURANCE
821 15th NW (432)
DC 20005

HOUSING

NATIONAL ASSN OF HOUSING COOPS
1828 L NW (1100)
DC 20036

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES
1620 Eye St. NW
DC 20006

FOUNDATION FOR COOPERATIVE
HOUSING
1001 15th St. NW (8th floor)
DC 20005

NATIONAL HOMEBUYERS & HOME-
OWNERS ASSN
1225 19th St. NW
DC 20036

NATIONAL URBAN COALITION
2100 M St. NW
DC 20037

RURAL HOUSING ALLIANCE
1346 Conn Ave. NW
DC 20036

CENTER FOR GROWTH ALTERNATIVES
1785 Mass. Ave. NW
DC 20036

INTERNATIONAL

SE ASIA CHRONICLE
PO BOX 4000D
Berkeley CA 94704

MERIP REPORTS
BOX 3122
DC 20010

THE AFRICA FUND
305 East 46th St.
NYC NY 10017

AFRICARE
1424 16th St. NW
DC 20036

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA
305 East 46th St. (17th floor)
NYC NY 10017

MULTINATIONAL MONITOR
PO BOX 19312
DC 20036

COUNTER SPY
PO BOX 647 Ben Franklin Sta.
DC 20044

INDOCHINA RESOURCES CENTER
1322 18th St. NW
DC 20036

SANE
318 Mass. Ave. NE
DC 20002

ACTION FOR WORLD COMMUNITY
1424 16th St. NW
DC 20036

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE
339 Lafayette St.
NYC NY 10012

COALITION FOR A NEW FOREIGN
AND MILITARY POLICY
120 Maryland Ave. NE
DC 20002

WORLD FEDERLISTS USA
1424 16th St. NW
DC 20036

WORLD PEACE TAX FUND
2111 Fla. Ave. NW
DC 20008

COUNCIL FOR A LIVABLE WORLD
100 Md. Ave. NE
DC 20002

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION
Box 271
Nyak NY 10960

WOMENS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOR PEACE & FREEDOM
123 Race St.
Philadelphia Pa. 19107

LEGAL

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UN.
22 East. 40th St.
New York NY 10006

REPRESSION INFO PROJECT
PO Box 3278
DC 20010

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
RESPONSIVE LAW
PO BOX 19367
DC 20036

COMM TO ABOLISH PRISON
SLAVERY
324 C SE (303)
DC 20003

NATIONAL PUBLIC LAW
TRAINING CENTER
2000 P St. NW
DC 20036

LEGAL SERVICES CORP
733 15th St. NW
DC 20005

GRASSROOTS CITIZEN DISPUTE
RESOLUTION CLEARINGHOUSE
4401 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh Pa. 15213

CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL
POLICY
1751 N NW
DC 20036

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
853 Broadway (1705)
NYC NY 10003

WOMENS LEGAL DEFENSE FUND
1424 16th St. NW
DC 20009

AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSN
1212 16th NW
DC 20009

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INST
1346 Conn. Ave. NW
DC 20036

LAWYERS COMM FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
UNDER LAW
733 15th St. NW (520)
DC 20005

MILITARY

CENTER FOR DEFENSE INFO
122 Maryland Ave. NE
DC 20002

CIVILIAN CONGRESS
2361 Mission St.
San Francisco CA 94110

CENTER FOR NATIONAL
SECURITY STUDIES
122 Maryland Ave. NE
DC 20002

Solar Eclipse?

The sun may be monopolized
sooner than you think.

Arco, Mobil, Exxon and Shell
have already bought their own
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And today, Big Oil controls
65% of the domestic copper
needed for solar collectors.

Solar Lobby has been
fighting for your energy
independence since the first
Sun Day, May Third, 1978.
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keeping solar competitive,
pushing enlightened solutions to
our energy problems.

Join us today, and declare
your energy independence.



Solar Lobby
1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Fifth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 466-6350

- ☐ Please send me more
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☐ Here is my \$15 contribution.
Please enroll me as a member
of Solar Lobby and send me
your "Blueprint for a Solar
America."

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The Last Colony

THE BITE AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

EDMOND L. KANWIT

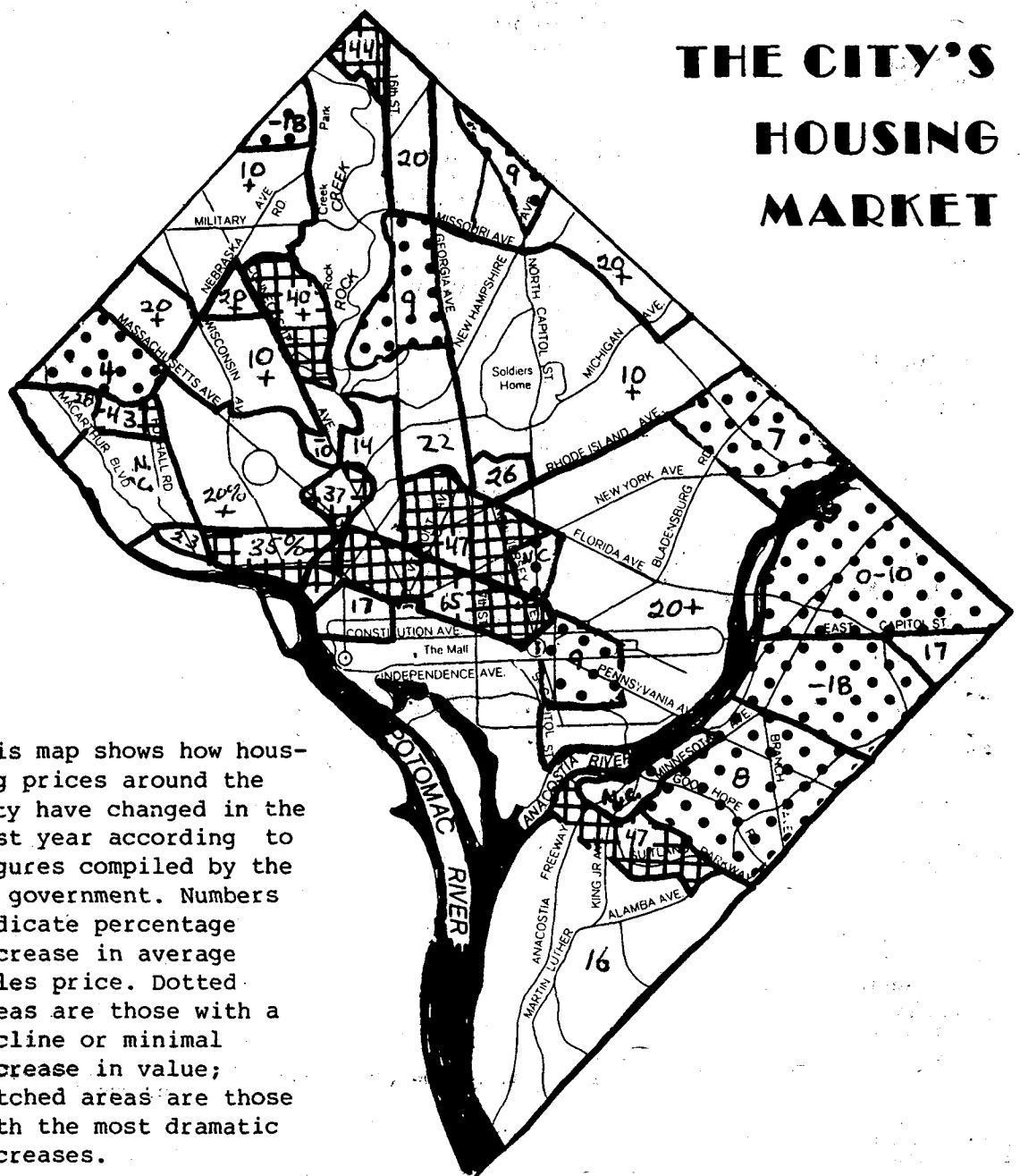
The President has signed a bill that would provide \$1.7 billion more to pour down the Metro hole -- provided that area governments come up with tax-raising measures to provide 20% of the funds needed to complete the system. There have been few voices raised against this fiscal and transit profligacy but one of the most knowledgeable has been that of Edmond L. Kanwit, chairman, Washington Coalition for Metro Accountability. Here are excerpts from his recent testimony on Capitol Hill, given before passage of the bill:

Metro has been termed a political miracle; to us the miracle is that after ten years of misstatement, the claims of its supporters should still find credibility on Capitol Hill. You have been told that Metro bonds would be amortized out of the fare box, that Metro costs after appropriate allowance for inflation would be \$3 billion or \$5 billion, that BART technology would change the economics of the transit industry, that growth would be concentrated in Metro corridors and that population increase would be reasserted in the District, Arlington and Alexandria. None of these has come to pass. Now you are being told that the ridership has exceeded projections, air pollution will be abated because of Metro, that significant fuel savings will accrue, that Congress has been largely responsible for delays which have escalated costs, and above all, that 101 miles must be completed if we are to have a system. None of these statements is true.

... It is time that the truth be presented before the financial albatross of a \$10 billion system with \$600 million annual operating deficit be hung around the constricted necks of local, state and federal governments.

... After expenditure of some \$4 billion, ridership of the combined rail-bus system still remains below the bus level of 1965. In the total picture, what does daily patronage of 300,000 mean? (A figure not yet attained.) Since most people make round trips and virtually all commuters do, we are talking about 150,000 persons. Of these about 60 percent are work-trips so we are dealing with 90,000 commuters, not all at rush-hour when the crunch occurs. The Metro contribution in terms of the vital journey-to-work trip is less than 5 percent of an employed labor force of 1.75 million and total public transport accounts for only 11 or 12 percent.

THE CITY'S HOUSING MARKET



This map shows how housing prices around the city have changed in the past year according to figures compiled by the DC government. Numbers indicate percentage increase in average sales price. Dotted areas are those with a decline or minimal increase in value; hatched areas are those with the most dramatic increases.

... The reasons for the urban transportation crisis are complex; the major factor has been the increasing distance between where people live and where they work, for ever-larger numbers of persons. Without intelligent planning, transportation tends to exacerbate the problem. People want greenery, quiet, space. To obtain them, they trade-off lengthened travel. The trend to the suburbs of both residence and workplace has not decelerated; the Washington exurbs report the highest growth rates, areas most difficult to serve with public transit. Employment, however, does recently appear to have strengthened in the District but not residence. So the worktrip continues to grow in length. The implications for energy use are not good. ... Since out-migration of blacks substantially outnumbers the in-movement of whites, the need for more commuting continues.

... We appear to be providing tomorrow's transportation for the metropolitan area of yesterday. We should be moving toward a better balance of residence and workplace; instead, making Metro "viable" becomes an overriding consideration, and the tail wags the dog.

Major emphasis is placed by all witnesses for further federal assistance for Metro on the actual and potential

gains with respect to energy savings and clean air through completion of the 101-mile system. Review of the professional literature and of the logic employed fails to confirm these claims. No mention is made of less-polluting engines which federal regulations have mandated -- the real reason. It is further claimed that 101-mile system is the major element in the local clean-air program. Actually most air pollution is caused by the gasoline engine before it is warmed up.

... The method employed to measure energy savings is to contrast consumption by automobiles with electrically driven rail cars and diesel-fueled buses. It is then assumed that the automobile will be left at home instead of being garaged or parked all day by the commuter. This assumption is convincing only to a man who never had a wife and teenaged children, and is palpably false. Its falsity is borne out by the fact that there are no gains in reducing congestion, air pollution nor energy by BART. The most heavily polluted cities in the United States include those with rail rapid transit because of the density of the activity which it makes possible and encourages. New York has at once the lowest automobile density per capita and the highest areal measurement in the United States.

A study by the Congressional Budget Office, Urban Transportation and Energy, the Potential Savings of Different Modes, summarizes the claims of the Washington Metro as "wildly exaggerated" and "misguided." Its conclusions state succinctly: "In view of the limited energy conservation potential of rail rapid transit and the enormous capital costs of such systems, expenditure of federal funds on these systems for the purposes of energy conservation appears to be misguided and possibly even counterproductive."

Before his election, Congressman Joe Fisher was president of Resources for the Future. This year a study was published by that organization: Energy in America's Future, the Choices Before Us. It involved the efforts of five senior staff members, among others. The authors do not agree with witnesses for the completion of Metro either. They conclude: "The critical fact about mass transit is that it does not function well in the absence of high-density areas and high-density corridors. In moderate suburban density areas there are far too few passengers outside of the rush hours to justify equipment needs. Offpeak vehicles run essentially empty."

... Former WMATA chairman, Joe Wholey, the author of the (Metro financial plan), was a staff member of the Urban Institute before entering federal employment. He is a management not a transportation specialist. The conclusions of the Institute's transportation experts are presented in the Urban Predicament (1976). Chapter 6, by Michael A. Kemp and Melvyn D. Cheslow, disagrees completely with Mr. Wholey. On page 350 they state: "But it is folly to talk about the attractiveness of rail rapid service without at the same time considering the price which has to be



paid for that attractiveness. We personally doubt whether there can be many corridors in those urban areas currently without rail service where the building of a new rapid rail line would be economically justified... even after the social costs of automobile and bus travel have been taken into account."

... Recognizing that high capital costs, and an intolerable level of annual operating deficits would result from the proposed completion of the 101-mile rail rapid transit system, the Coalition for Metro Accountability suggests the

following program of public transportation for the Washington area:

- The rail system would be completed to 67 miles including the second Potomac crossing and unfunded connectors. Total cost: \$3.7 billion rather than \$7 billion. Only \$300 million more of unfunded capital needed.

- Construction of a storage yard to accommodate rolling stock from the F and K Routes (to avoid the need for a yard at West Falls Church) at the Potomac Railroad Yard.

- Completion of A, C, D, G and L Routes; the K Route to Balston, the F Route to Anacostia, and of the E Route to the turnaround near Federal City College.

- Construction of needed access roads at stations to reduce congestion; adequate parking; good feeder bus service and encouragement of car and van pools to stations. Station redesign to avoid unfavorable environmental impact.

- Least cost-effective route segments would be eliminated. Substantial savings would result from less deadheading by location of storage yard. Contract revision to insist on full day's work for a full day's pay. Elimination of 20 percent of riders now carried without payment of fare. Critical review of WMATA management and personnel.

- Improved express and local bus service. Far more economical to provide and more flexible to changes in demand. Better lateral service which is not provided by Metro. Express bus on I-66.

This program would provide better service and reduced cost. It would not have such severe impact on essential local services. It would lessen inflationary pressures on all types of construction. It would set an example of financial good judgment and fiscal responsibility for our nation.

DC EYE

Over the hump

The Statehood Initiative Committee reports that it has collected more than the required 12,500 signatures needed to get the statehood question on the ballot but to make sure that there are enough valid signatures the committee is continuing its drive through the end of this month. It would be a shame if the initiative failed by just a few hundred signatures. If you can help in the final push call the committee at 234-9175 or get that petition sheet you have lying around the house notarized and in to the committee.

On the waterfront

From the Wisconsin Avenue Corridor Committee newsletter: Present deve-

lopment plans for the Georgetown waterfront have been described as creating a three block long wall between Georgetown and the river. Maximum building heights south of M Street would be approximately double the height of the Whitehurst Freeway; 30th, Thomas Jefferson, and 31st Streets would be extended to the river as tunnels; and only a 160-foot-wide walkway would be left along the river's edge. These plans, however, have been approved in a memorandum of agreement signed July 13 by the Secretary of the Interior, the Mayor, the chairman of the NCPC, and the developers, Herbert S. Miller and Richard L. Kramer. . . . The day before, Senator Mark Hatfield introduced a bill to preserve the land south of K Street as a national park. The Commission on Fine Arts has strongly endorsed this legislation. Organizations which have joined in support include WACC, the Federation of Civic Associations, the DC Citizens Planning Coalition, the Committee of 100 on the Federal City and citizen's associations in different areas. Some 2000 citizens have signed a petition in favor of the proposed park. If you

would like to add your voice to the effort, contact Katharine Sullivan, 1539 29th St. NW, DC 20007..

Furthermore

The Fire Prevention Academy has decided on a different location than its planned Marjorie Webster College site and so will sell the nine acre tract in Shepherd Park. Neighbors are concerned, especially since the property has been exempted from the Federal Surplus Property Act by Congress, allowing it to be sold to anyone.

A big bouquet of thorns to the Zoning Commission for passing rules that say that only property owners, not tenants, must receive advance notice of a BZA hearing or a contested Zoning Commission case involving a nearby property. As the Wisconsin Avenue Corridor Committee pointed out: "Thus, people in rented apartments or rented commercial space will receive no direct notification of a hearing involving an adjacent building, no matter how drastically they could be affected by the outcome of

Letters

Like most residents of the area, I was born elsewhere. My home is here, but, deep down in my mind, my real home is where I was born. My real home is the city of Frankfurt (Federal Republic of Germany.) I feel particularly nostalgic when I meet someone who talks in our local dialect. (You'd be amazed how many Frankfurters one meets in Washington!)

But most of the all I am reminded of my origin every year at Christmas. Even though I have resided elsewhere these past 46 years, the City of Frankfurt and the mayor still count me as one of theirs. Every year the mayor remembers me, with good wishes as well as with a book. Sometimes it is a book about the new city, sometimes a nostalgic description of the city before its destruction during the war, or, sometimes, a book written in the local Frankfurt dialect. It is nice to be so remembered in one's real home.

Of all the "strangers" in Washington, how many are remembered by their mayor. Does Mr. Barry send such good wishes to former Washingtonians?

ERWIN VOGEL
Gatthersburg, Md.

the case, whereas every condominium or other owner within 200 feet of the building will be sent notice by mail."

¶ANC 1E 01 finally has a commissioner. Ray Nosbaum was elected last fall by write-in votes to fill the long-vacant Mt. Pleasant seat.

¶Roses to the mayor for naming Wesley Long, long-time neighborhood activist to the Public Service Commission.

¶City auditor Matt Watson wants to make it a crime to lie to the city's new financial computer. He was led to this conclusion following a little incident in which some of our city workers bought some trucks that should have been leased by placing misleading entries in the new automated accounting system. We wonder whether the computer will also be required to read employees their rights to remain silent and have a lawyer.

¶You have until Feb. 1 to get your proposal in to the DC Humanities Council. Call 347-1732 for information.

¶The Environmental Defense Fund has released a report that charges that a \$4.5 million a year pollution control program in the District of Columbia is not only ineffective but environmentally damaging. The program involves the removal of phosphate from sewage effluent and proposes to ban the use of phosphate detergents in the metropolitan region. EDF scientists who conducted the study contend that this program has not resulted in significant improvement in water

quality and it has produced over 200 tons of sludge daily, requiring nearly 250 acres of land per year for disposal.

¶At presstime word has come that the Georgetown waterfront developers have decided to switch architects after the Fine Arts Commission lambasted their massive plan described on the previous page. Can Arthur Cotton Moore rescue yet another developer from the clutches of social ignominy? Stay tuned to this channel for further details.

¶We plan to go into it in more detail but for the moment would just like to point out that there is a difference between legalizing gambling and city promotion of it.

¶Bill Middleton, one of the few people in the city's planning office with a feeling for the needs and interests of ordinary citizens have been fired. One more sign of where this administration's heart really is.

¶Only 19% of bills for city ambulance service are being paid. Although the scheme to charge for ambulance calls was allegedly designed to cut down on unnecessary runs, there has been no reduction in demand.

¶Josiah Swampoodle reports that he has designed a new flag for the city. It's a bright red banner with the legend: "No Turn"

¶Got a nice note from city hall information honcho Alan Grip offering us "flowers of our choice" for our comments last month on the City Hall New Times, but he says the credit belongs to Jan Lipkin who produces the paper.

¶Calvin Lockridge, the new president of the school board, says that the school system might have to shorten the school year (either by closing earlier in the spring or going to four day weeks) or make cuts in individual programs. The budget cuts of the mayor and city council are to blame. Let them know how you feel about it before the kids start staying home on Fridays.

¶Harry Montague, Cleveland Park architect-activist, is teaching a course in inventing at Open U. Harry says it's the "first time inventing has been taught in North America."

¶The very important hearings on criminal justice legislation continue throughout the winter and the spring. For a list of hearing dates call councilmember Clarke's office.

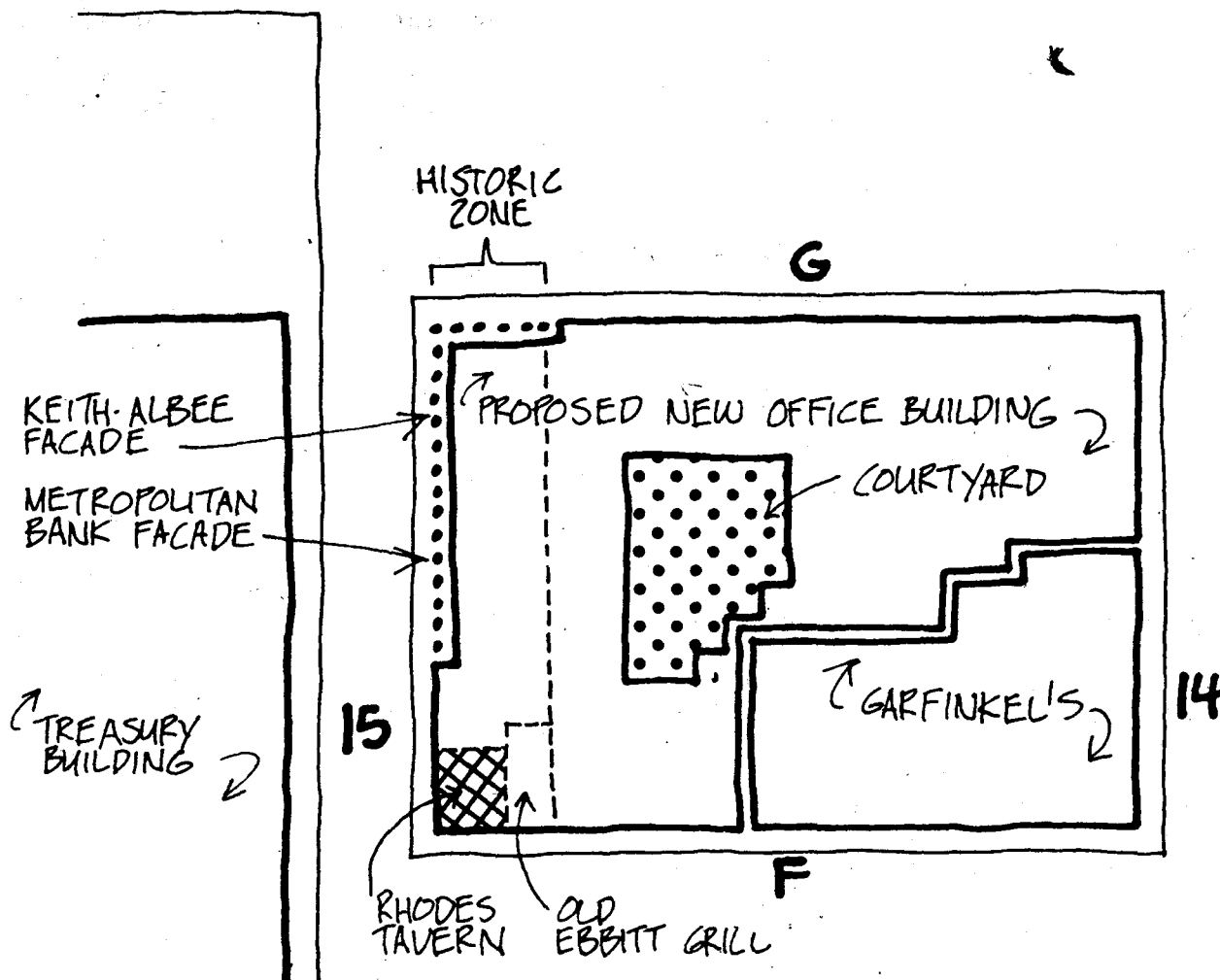
What's happening

•FEMINIST ALLIANCE MEETING 2/12 7pm, All Soul's Church. Topics: statehood, lesbianism position paper. Nan Hunter, 783-3410.

•DC DISASTER ACT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. 2/13 2 pm, rm 513, City Hall.

•A JEWISH REPOSE TO THE ENERGY CRISIS. 1/27 8 pm, Temple Sinai. Arthur Waskow, speaker.

•DATABOOK ON POPULATION AND ECONOMIC TRENDS. \$5 from Center for Municipal and Metropolitan Research, 1717 Mass. Ave. NW, DC 20036.



GAZETTE QUIZ OF THE MONTH: Look closely at this drawing of Ollie Carr's new office building across from the Treasury Building. See the little square in the corner called 'Rhodes Tavern?' See the big square in the middle called 'court yard?' Now find out how many times the Rhodes Tavern would fit inside the courtyard and, for extra points, explain why Carr will give this much space to a courtyard but not a square inch for saving Washington's oldest downtown commercial building. Send all answers to Mayor Marion Barry.

Outlying Precincts

Sam Smith

Not your usual crisis

NEW YEAR'S EVE — As this is written, I am consoling myself with a thought that is at least momentarily joyous: at year's end, despite the rhetoric about Pearl Harbor, World War III and the ghost of Neville Chamberlain rising from the grave to goose the great American nation with his infamous umbrella, the Iranian situation is still one of the most civilized grave international crises of recent memory.

There is, of course, no way of telling whether this will still be true by the time you read this. I hope and pray that the hostages will be safely home, busily lining up agents and contracts and talk show appearances. But they may all be dead. Or the Iranian nation may have been treated to the first hands-on test of the efficacy of the neutron bomb, to some exotic bio-chemical agent that gives militant students delusions of passivity or perhaps to the old reliable medicine of a few good men landed on its sandy shores.

Nonetheless, on this date reason still has a one point lead over the forces of disaster. In fact, it has been far more dangerous in recent days to have been a sailor riding a bus in Puerto Rico, a Marine guarding an embassy in Pakistan, or an American traveller in Turkey, than it has been to have been a hostage in Tehran. While terrorists in Italy plugged away at the kneecaps of innocent children, those in the American Embassy in Tehran were setting up a physical fitness program for their captives.

Whatever the final outcome, we have had at least two months of grace, a time when much madness that might have occurred didn't. There is here, perhaps, a glimmer of hope for the eighties and I think that some of the credit must be given to television. Once revolutionaries add the video media to their arsenal they are in trouble; it's only a matter of days before the prime time mentality overwhelms revolutionary imperatives. Revolutions that come out of the barrel of a minicam have to be suitable for family viewing.

In fact, the students in the first two months threatened to give terrorism a bad name. Commentators, after complaining about the incarceration, violation of international law, blindfolding and handcuffing, ran out of atrocities of which to accuse them, and began pointing out that they weren't doing their homework. Some of these same commentators, so anxious that the students be labelled "terrorists" were simultaneously drumming up support for military action, which, after all, is indistinguishable from terrorism except that it has the

sanction of an officially recognized government and tends to kill and maim more innocent people. Most forms of military aggression — bombing, attacking, sinking, etc. — describe the act of the perpetrator. Terrorism is unique in that its label evokes the reaction of the victim. This semantic difference, however, does not make the former more palatable.

Not only did the students seem a rather tame lot of terrorists, but the Iranian and American governments failed repeatedly during the first two months to live up to the expected behavior of great powers and small minds in times of trouble. Within the context of their politics and viscera, all the participants showed far more sense than we might reasonably have expected.

We had, on the one hand, a government with a predilection towards summary judgement in domestic political matters, promising Christmas services and baths for the hostages. We had the Sheik Sadeq Khalkhali, who has modestly claimed responsibility for the execution of 200 opponents of the regime (but who is given credit for far more) announcing, "I wish the hostages to be released soon. They are our guests, and we do not like to treat our guests like this."

On the other had, we had a president with a notoriously jingoistic constituency, at least temporarily ignoring the lynch mob at the Pentagon and war whoops from the editorial pages; favoring instead the terribly tedious diplomatic procedures of the State Department.

There were, to be sure, excesses of rhetoric and action. On the US government's part that was the outrageous roundup of Iranian students, the insulting admission of the ex-Shah in the first place, and the McCarthyesque revocation of Philip Agee's passport. But sometimes, at moments like these, we are in luck if the president is even half right. I would have much preferred that Carter had speeded up resolution of the conflict by admitting, and apologizing for, America's disgraceful complicity in the terrorism of the ex-Shah, but the list of obnoxious options he must have rejected in recent weeks probably led him to conclude that it would be better to avoid such a course, lest he be accused of being soft on Islamism. For reasons I have never fully understood, being president means never having to say you're sorry. Those who are parents spend hours encouraging our children to apologize for their errors rather than smack Billy one more time on the nose, but we expect our politicians to treat the lives of fifty hostages as being less important than the maintenance of the fiction that we didn't really screw up.

Reviving diplomacy

Perhaps it is that we have higher standards for our children than we do for our presidents.

In comparison, however, with some of his White House peers and pretenders, Carter has looked pretty good. One reason, I suspect, is that the Carter administration has been blessedly free of Ivy League cowboys like McNamara, Bundy, Kissinger et al who seemed determined to prove that a well educated man could be just as mean, tough and stupid as any kid on the block. To be sure there is Zbigniew Brezezinski, but Carter so far has managed to contain him, allowing Cyrus Vance and the State Department apparatus to restore diplomacy to diplomacy, no small achievement given the recent tradition of pseudo-Metternichs hotdogging around the world.

Carter also seems to lack the normal presidential level of machismo. Politics to him is not sexuality by other means; he seems to prefer the sports metaphor of a long season in which games are won and lost instead of projecting a lothario's illusion of uninterrupted triumph. He doesn't seem compelled to be perfect, only driven to do as well as he can under the circumstances.

Lest we lose perspective, however, it should be noted that the Iranian crisis was the first good thing that had happened to the Carter campaign for reelection and the White House has made the most of every thrilling moment. A crisis that causes a double-digit inflation in poll standings and which gives you a chance to wriggle out of a politically difficult debate can't be all bad. One has a choice, as president, of labelling a crisis anything from minor to very grave. From the beginning the Carter administration chose the latter option. This decision was politically valid, less so historically, since, as Megan Rosenfeld pointed out in a Washington Post article, there have been since 1968 the following incidents around the world involving US embassy personnel:

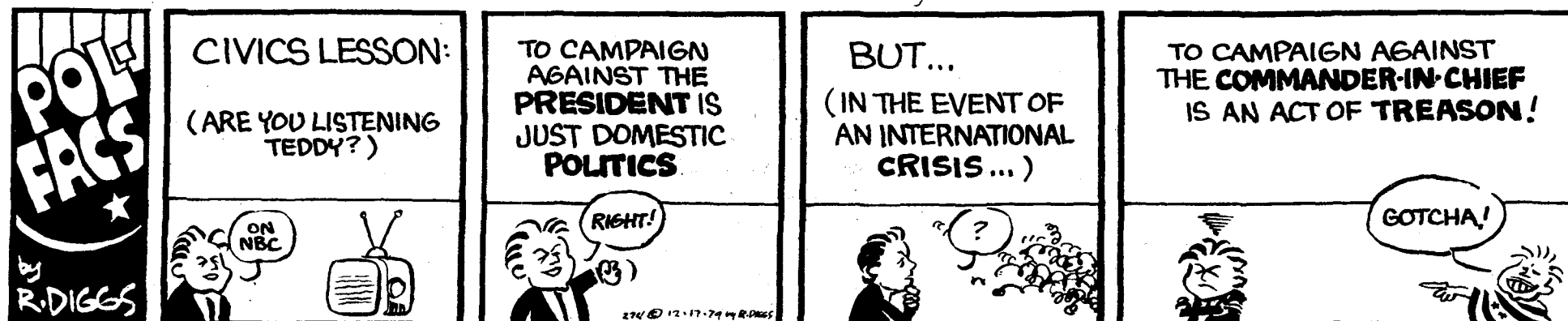
- 95 kidnappings
- 54 assassinations (including five ambassadors)
- 12 letter bombings
- 266 incendiary bombings
- 655 explosive bombings
- 54 armed attacks
- 28 snipings
- 13 hostage-barricade situations
- 19 hostage seizures, acts of sabotage or "other actions"
- 252 attacks on US diplomatic officials or property.

Most of these we managed to survive without more than a ripple of presidential or media concern.

The caviar columnists

While the students, the Iran government and the White House were acting with restraint, the columnar press, of course, ignored this sweep towards common sense and was its usual unconstructive self.

Joseph Kraft seized on the Iranian crisis as cause for "jettisoning of a moralistic approach



to world politics in favor of a strategic approach." James J. Kilpatrick argued that "great powers will cease to be great powers, and must inevitably decline, if they forsake the iron fist that a velvet glove conceals." The Iranians were variously described on the op-ed pages as "mad," "crazy" and a "contemptible enemy."

Interestingly enough, a number of the columnists whipping up hysteria over Iran were on the payola list of the erstwhile Iranian ambassador, Ardeshtir Zahedi. The Washington Post finally got around to admitting this nine months after the story first broke in an English journal — although only deep into the third column of a story that focused on politicians who had received gifts rather than of reporters like Joseph Kraft, who admitted he once stayed at Zahedi's residence "because I couldn't find a hotel room," and Carl Rowan, who confessed that "Ardeshtir and I were very close friends." The size or number of the gifts is, of course, less important than the fact that people like Rowan and Kraft had done anything to deserve them. The problem is, simply put, that a number of people writing with such sententiousness about Iran today were in thick with the old regime, so much so that they, along with most of the press, can't refrain from referring to the deposed dictator as the "Shah" which, of course, he no longer is.

All this helps to explain why Evans and Novak were declined admission to Iran. In an outraged column over their rejection, the pair never noted that Rowland Evans had months ago admitted to the New Statesman: "I have had caviar for many years, but I suppose one hundred other reporters in town received it too."

Of course, the caviar was merely an outward and visible sign of inward, invisible disgrace and was, in a sense, redundant. Kraft, Rowan, Evans et al need little prompting for their realpolitik asinities.

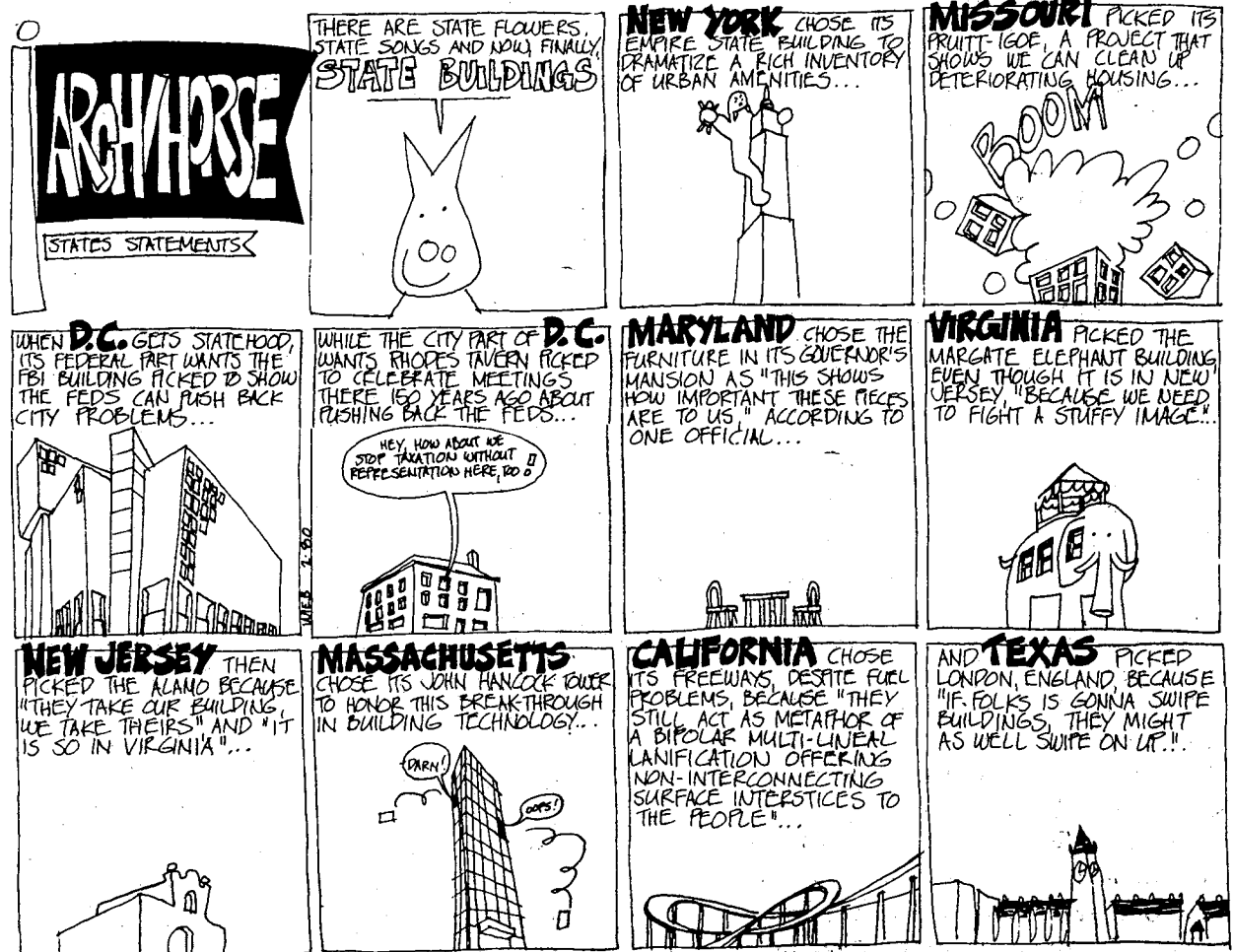
More of the same

It was worrisome, though. The biggest danger to a reasonable resolution of the problem appeared to be that America would overreact in some way. There were, from the beginning, signs that Iran did not want to take us to the mat. The situation appeared similar to the story from the French revolution in which a man suddenly leaps from his table at the cafe as an angry mob streams by. "I have to go," he explains. "I'm leading those people."

Khomeini was, it seemed, the man in the cafe. The students had set up the situation. He needed to take what advantage he could of it while at the same time prevent it from turning into a donnybrook. In a fascinating interpretation of events in the first days, anthropologist William Beeman, who has spent seven years in Iran and has written a soon-to-be-published book called "Meaning and Style in Iranian Interaction," put it this way:

The Ayatollah faced several problems when the crisis broke. First, he needed to gain control of a situation which was not being played out under his direction. Second, he had to do so while avoiding the appearance of repudiating or discouraging his principal supporters. Third, he had to turn the event into something that would be viewed as a positive move rather than a disaster.

Khomeini chose to gain control over the group of revolutionaries occupying the embassy by slow, step-by-step encroachment on



their decision-making prerogatives. Starting at the beginning of the occupation, he began to make small requests of the students while congratulating them on their revolutionary action.

First, he asked them not to speak of killing anyone. The students promptly complied. Second, he requested that the hostages not be blindfolded. This also was acceded to. Third, by giving crowds an implicit mandate to occupy the British embassy and then getting them to leave, he demonstrated his ability to get people to give up an occupied compound.

Finally, he sent his son Ahmad into the US embassy grounds with the students. Khomeini's son provided the essential communications link that would be necessary if the occupiers were to come under the direct control of Khomeini and the Revolutionary Council.

In the days following, it became clear that the way to control the situation in the embassy was to demonstrate that every move taken was a proper revolutionary action. To show the West and the people of Iran that he was, in fact, now in control of events, a plan was needed to ensure that if the release of hostages became necessary, it could be accomplished in a way which the embassy occupiers would not view as capitulation.

The releasing of women and blacks in the embassy, coupled with the threat to try the rest of the hostages as spies, was a brilliantly conceived way to accomplish this aim. Although they initially resisted the plan, the occupiers were led to feel that they were dealing an important ideological blow both to those who criticized Islam for its treatment of women and to the United States for its treatment of blacks. At the same time, by raising the possibilities of trials, it seemed that the occupation would take on additional revolutionary significance.

Such analysis was far too complicated for the good guy-bad guy American press. In its coverage, the press constantly downplayed nuances that suggested more hope than it wanted us to have. Thus when, shortly after taking office, Sadegh Ghotbzadeh was shown on TV saying that sending the ex-shah to another country would not "totally" resolve the crisis, the media passed by the modifying

adjective. And instead of waiting to see what effect the departure of the ex-shah would have, the American government proceeded directly towards hardening Iranian attitudes by proposing that the world starve them out.

Ghotbzadeh, headlined as a "hard-liner" when he was appointed, increasingly showed the effects of his American education by emulating US political style in a succession of wishy-washy and semi-contradictory statements. His problem seemed much like Carter's with inflation: he had to look as though he was in control. Meanwhile, in Washington, the Iranian embassy worked late into the night trying to convince individual angry American callers of the validity of the Iranian cause, hardly the pattern of arrogant maniacs. Even Ghotbzadeh apologized to the families of the hostages, saying "I share their anguish. I am really terribly sorry for what has happened." This quote, which could have provided a model for President Carter's reaction to the history of American involvement in Iran, was buried on page 12 of a story in the Washington Post.

The press consistently preferred to see the worst in every development, which had the effect of turning American anger towards the Iranian people as a whole, exacerbating a bad situation, and pressuring the White House into more aggressive and less conciliatory action. To a certain extent this merely the practice of traditional journalistic principles — when in doubt assume everyone on the plane was killed, but it also stemmed from one of the last overtly-sanctioned forms of discrimination left in America: it is okay to hate Moslems. There has been some moderation in this attitude lately, thanks in part to the efforts of President Carter, but the Islamic world is, at best, on probation with Americans. There is no wealth of shared traditions to fall back on as is the case, say, when the Israelis conduct a lethal extra-curricular raid on their Arab neighbors or when the Pope holds millions of families hostage to views on birth control as primitive as any of the Ayatollah's theories.

I recently came across a copy of an old restrictive covenant of the sort that once said who couldn't buy a house in certain parts of Washington, DC. On the proscribed list were not only Negroes and Jews, but "Persians and

Syrians." We were ready for the embassy takeover decades before it happened. We hated Iranians before there were any significant number around to hate.

So if the Iranians have acted in a paranoid fashion it is not totally without reason. As we have shown during this latest incident, not only do we not understand them, we don't like them and are happy to short-circuit our own constitution to get them out of the country. While it is true that they overthrew our embassy, it is also true and still relevant that we overthrew their whole government and that we have a long, dishonorable history of interfering in the affairs of other countries in violation of international law. Are we prepared to justify that before the World Court?

The press could have been more useful in this affair if it had valued empathy and understanding as much as it did knee-jerk fealty to the president and technical enterprise. The real story in any conflict of culture is not who is right and who is wrong but why differing concepts of right and wrong exist and what the meeting ground is between them.

A press concerned with understanding rather than with nationalistic triumph would have noted the fear that existed among Iranians that America might try once more to restore the ex-shah to the throne. The press might have, as well, spent more time exploring the complexities of Iranian politics, been more sophisticated in differentiating between the position of the students and that of the government, and been more interested in talking to people who had deep knowledge of Iran rather than parroting the all-purpose any-crisis rhetoric of government officials.

The McNeil/Lehrer Report, as usual, seemed to understand that the story was not only obtainable from government sources. The Washington Star, weeks after the crisis began, did run a lengthy and revealing interview with sev-

en Iranian scholars, but on the whole the press was more interested in rallying support for the president and letting itself be drafted into a mindless cheering squad for 'our team.' This illuminated nothing and, in fact, made matters worse.

Thus we found Ted Kennedy being pilloried for daring to speak the truth about the ex-shah (although the press did not similarly pillory Ronald Reagan for suggesting that the ex-shah be given permanent haven here, the argument that Kennedy was contesting). We found the dutifully evasive statements of Hodding Carter consuming air time that might otherwise have been used by someone who knew something and was willing to say it. And we found TV reporters actually promoting "peaceful demonstrations" on behalf of the hostages, proudly boosting postcard campaigns and the like. One only has to think of a local anchorman urging everyone to attend a peaceful anti-war rally during the sixties to appreciate how extraordinary was this voluntary suppression of the press's beloved "objectivity."

The ironic thing was that it was precisely the sort of jingoistic view of foreign policy that the press promoted which got us into trouble in the first place, that helped to create the students, the hatred and the irrationality and all the problems that surround us in the world. We can't change the past but can recognize its evil and mollify the future by altering our ways. The press, throughout the crisis, seemed to be calling for more of the same.

Gary Wills, in a rare revolt against editorial sabre rattling, put it rather nicely:

If we follow our past bad habits, so praised and ingrained by Henry Kissinger, we shall not even care to learn what an alien culture is undergoing. If that culture appears hostile to us, our leaders will conclude it must be the pawn

of Soviet power, and answer with a blind and blanket opposition.

That is how we treated the dense and different cultures of colonial Indochina — and we got the Vietnam war for our troubles. If we pursue the same course with the varying Moslem cultures, we are bound to get equal troubles.

Why they hate Jerry

The Iranians have not been alone in feeling the effects of the media's cultural straight-jacket. Jerry Brown is also getting the treatment in a continuing news blackout. Brown is not the first candidate to be ignored by the press, but his right, simply by merit of being governor of California, to decent coverage is so unarguable that he makes an excellent case study of the media's attempt to manipulate American politics.

What we seem to have developed in this country is a two-primary system. The latter series of primaries are those with which we are all familiar. But the first round of primaries are held in private — in editorial board rooms, on press buses, in small cubicles under the pressure of deadlines and in bars where reporters gather after a hard day of cliché collation. In these preliminary primaries it is decided who will be considered 'viable,' who will 'lack resources to run a decent campaign,' who will 'gain momentum' and which will be an 'underdog.' The months before the first primary form a season of self-fulfilling punditry, those delicious moments when the commentators' reign is unchallenged by the immutable results of an election.

Brown, we have learned, is not viable. The factors involved include those that might be reasonably considered by a truly impartial observer, say, Jimmy the Greek: size of or-

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ganization, financing, early poll results etc. But they also include the press's own perceptions of the candidate filtered through its own peculiar biases. In the case of Brown, these perceptions appear to go so far beyond the typical indifference the media traditionally shows towards underdogs that they attain the status of actual dislike.

In my own pre-primary attempt at punditry, I have collected a number of possible explanations of why the press hates Jerry Brown and offer them herewith:

- Jerry Brown comes from the west. Not only are the most influential media eastern but those reporters who cover the campaign for western papers have generally spent enough time in Washington to have become culturally alienated from the source of their paycheck. The gap between eastern and western culture in the US is far greater than generally supposed and Brown is hurt by coming from the wrong side of the divide.

- Jerry Brown is intelligent. As an intelligent person he sees contradictions, ambivalences and complexities. These are all things the press hates even more than it hates Jerry Brown.

- Jerry Brown believes there should be some changes made. The press has never been able to find the line between social change and revolution. To be on the safe side, it prefers to regard anyone who believes in anything more than incremental alteration of the status quo as a revolutionary, dreamer, demagogue or all three.

- Jerry Brown is young. He is not chronologically any younger than many reporters, but journalists, especially political reporters, age faster than most people. I am always surprised to discover, when I see them on TV, that George Will and Joseph Kraft are not 92 years old. The typical political analyst has a literary style that appears prematurely senile. They are just as bad in person. I have met Methodist ministers and senior partners of accounting firms who are more lively and interesting than, say, your average Washington Post reporter. Someone like Brown seems like a kid because he is not as ossified as those observing him.

- Jerry Brown believes government is a collective rather than a personal act. The press believes the opposite. Collective government is too hard to cover and is a sure sign of a

"lack of leadership." A leader who plays the role of a moderator for diverse political forces is considered at best weak and at worst toying with anarchism. Brown's style is more in keeping with democratic decentralism while the press prefers semi-monarchal authoritarianism.

- Jerry Brown refuses to give all the answers. Prescience, even if dead wrong, is a prime qualification for the presidency in the view of the press.

- Jerry Brown flaunts his compromises. The press considers it more fitting for a leader to conceal mugwumping in the discreet manner of Teddy Kennedy who has gutted his own health plan or Jimmy Carter who has betrayed his own promises on defense spending.

With so many failings, it is easy to see why Brown isn't considered 'viable.' The one reassuring thing about the press's pre-primary activities is that they don't always work. Neither McGovern nor Carter were considered viable before the primaries, either.

The Lord said it

Let me pause in my press-baiting long enough to bring you this important message from the Lord God Almighty, as found in the 45th verse of the 20th chapter of Luke:

In the hearing of all the people Jesus said to his disciples: 'Beware of the doctors of the law who love to walk up and down in long robes and have a great liking for respectful greetings in the streets, the chief seats in our synagogues, and places of honor at feasts. These are the men who eat up the property of widows, while they say long prayers for appearance's sake and they will receive the severest sentence.'

This is from the New English Bible. In the King James version, the 'doctors of the law' were called 'scribes' leading some readers to assume that Jesus was one of the first of the media critics. It is comforting to have this cleared up.

Condo Blues cont'd

MAKE A GOOD MESSAGE. SO LONG."

The beep beeped. "Hi. This is Eric Green, your new neighbor right below you. Your floor is leaking and water is dripping all over my place. Please call back at CL5-6666."

By nine o'clock that night the pool of water from the living room was threatening to invade the kitchen. 515 had not yet called back. Maybe the neighbors knew where he had gone. And maybe they could find me the name of the insurance company liable for any damage to my apartment.

"Yes?" answered an alarmed woman at 516, who seemed sure I had come to her apartment to commit armed robbery with intent to kill.

I tried to reassure her. "How ya doing," I grinned, extending my hand. "I'm Mr. Green, the new person in 415."

"WE DON'T WANT ANY," the woman shrieked, removing herself from my line of fire while trying to bolt the door.

I tried to keep it open. "Wait a minute," I protested. "I need your help."

"WE DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS. I DON'T KNOW YOU."

I tried 520. He wasn't home. Neither were 521 and 522. I was told by a man in 525 that the owner of that apartment had moved to Miami Beach. This man knew nothing about nothing.

Around 10:30, I again tried 515.

A researcher at Vanderbilt University claims he has successfully completed the first step in fertilizing a mouse egg without using sperm from a male. Pierre Soupart says this is the first time parthenogenesis has been achieved in a mammal. The next step will be to transfer the all-female embryos to foster mousemothers to see whether normal development takes place. We don't really understand this story but it sounds frightening.

"HI THERE. WELL..." This time in more threatening tones I left a message about possible legal action if the leak was not fixed.

An hour later the phone rang.

Aha, this must be him," I said in triumph. "Hello?"

"Is this Mr. Green in 415?" a bitter sounding voice barked. "This is the resident manager."

"Oh, good. You're going to fix the leak?"

"What leak? That's not what this is about."

"But I've got water coming out of my ears."

"That's your problem, Mister. The residents say there is a dark complexioned man in glasses and white sweat shirt who has a concealed weapon in his jeans. The man fits your description."

"Oh, that must be somebody else who looks like me."

"I just got an emergency phone call from 516 who said a rapist was at her door."

"I was only asking her for help."

"520 and 521 called about a drunk who tried to break into their apartments."

"And I thought they weren't home."

"525 complained about a man who kept asking suspicious questions about the owner of the apartment. And 515..."

"515!?" I hollered. "You found 515!?"

"Why yes. And he wants something done about the crank who keeps making obscene phone calls to him. The crank's voice sounds exactly like yours."

"But that's ridiculous. I'm a law abiding citizen."

"Sure, buster. And I'm the President of the United States."

"But he's the one causing all the trouble."

"I'm afraid it won't work, Mr. I know your type. And we're going to do something about it. 515 has requested police protection. Mr., if you're not out of here in 30 minutes, we will begin criminal proceedings against you."

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